

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

August 22, 2007

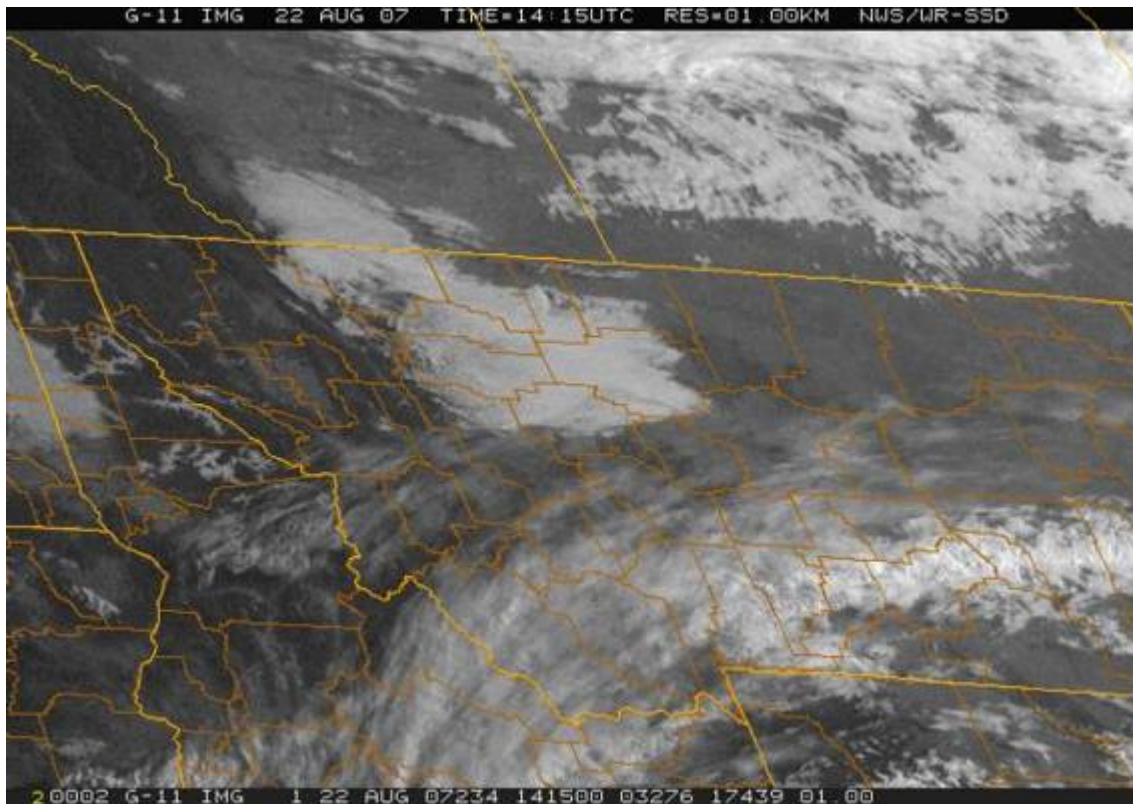
10:00 AM Wednesday

FORECAST:

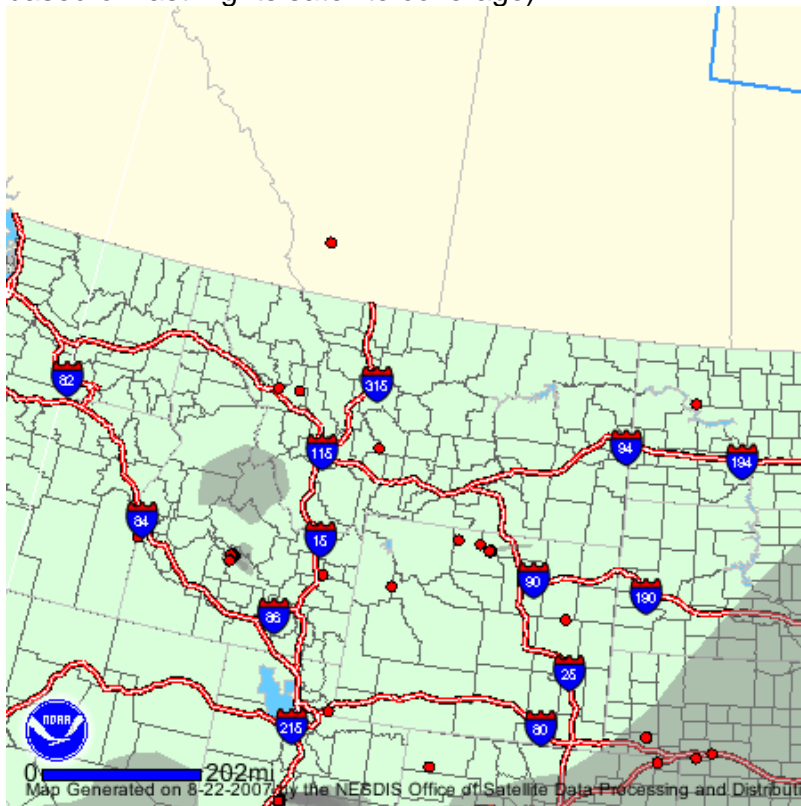
The Big Sky is blue today with no reports of unhealthy levels of smoke this morning. Fire activity levels across the Idaho/Montana area have been much reduced for the past two days and dispersion and transport have been very favorable. Smoke levels are starting to creep up in the northern Flathead and Missoula areas where conditions are into the moderate range.

With the exception of possible local direct impacts from nearby fires, no significant smoke problems are expected across the state today. West and northwest transport winds will stay steady today and there should be no big build up of residual smoke like last week. A ridge is starting to build into the area and warmer, dryer air and lower dispersion rates will start to raise the smoke impacts over the next several days. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

A morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls is illustrated below:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind (the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage).



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

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DISCUSSION:

All reporting stations are at [good](#) this morning with the exception of Whitefish, Kalispell, and Missoula where conditions have moved up into [moderate](#). The advisories in the table below represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day. Residents downwind of the active fires and experiencing impacts from residual smoke will need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to determine current conditions.

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Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, CS&KT run PM-10 TEOMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

Updated 10 AM August 22, 2007

These advisories represent conditions between midnight and 8 AM and may change substantially through the day

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
<u>VERY UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u> <u>FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	Whitefish T24 Kalispell T24 Missoula Vis(2)

T1(x)	One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x)	Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24	24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x)	Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm)	Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est)	estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.